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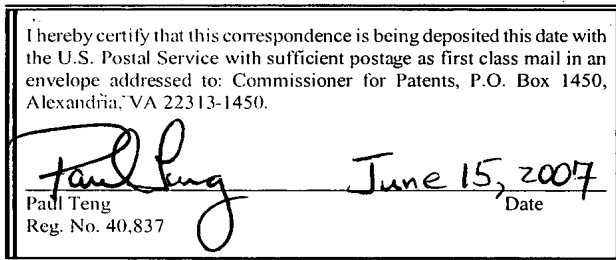
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Masanori KUSUNOKI et al.

Serial No.: 10/566,864

Date Filed: January 31, 2006

For: MAINTENANCE/RECOVERY DEVICE FOR LIQUID DISCHARGE DEVICE, AND
IMAGE FORMING DEVICE



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In order to ensure compliance with the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97(a)-(d), Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). To the best of Applicants' knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this application.

Alternatively, Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1). The references listed in the annexed Form PTO-1449 were cited in a March 26, 2007 Japanese official action in connection with a corresponding Japanese patent application. A copy of the March 26, 2007 Japanese official action is enclosed herewith. Copies of the references are also enclosed. Each reference listed in the Form PTO-1449 annexed to this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this

Information Disclosure Statement.

A translation of the attached official action from the Japanese Patent Office is available to the USPTO through the Dossier Access System. Should the translation be unavailable, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned to assure that appropriate information is available for consideration.

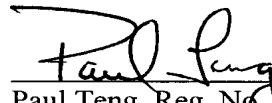
It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that these items are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 06-2140.

Respectfully submitted,



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